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BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH-EASTERN RHODESIA.

Government Notice No. 9 of 1903.

NORTH-EASTERN RHODESIA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

THE following Regulations providing for the formation and constitution of the North-Eastern Rhodesia Rifle Association are published for general information.

ROBERT CODRINGTON,
Administrator.

Fort Jameson, North-Eastern Rhodesia,
February 1903.

Regulations.

1. The North-Eastern Rhodesia Rifle Association is formed for the encouragement of rifle shooting in North-Eastern Rhodesia.

2. The Association shall consist of local branches with an unlimited number of members; and shall be governed by a Council, with a President who shall be appointed by the Administrator. The Council shall consist of six members elected annually, and the Presidents of local branches. In the event of a vacancy occurring the Council will elect by co-optation.

3. Before any local branch can be formed under these Regulations, names of not less than ten adult males wishing to join the Association, must be sent in for the approval of the Administrator through the Civil Commissioner of the district. The limits of the district within which the members must reside and the head-quarters of the branch, are to be fixed. On such approval being signified by Notice in the Gazette, the local branch shall be thereby duly formed, and the British South Africa Company will provide a rifle range for such branch.

4. A branch shall cease to exist if its numbers fall below five, or if they are below ten for a period of six consecutive months. In such case all arms issued must be dealt with as provided in clauses 26 and 27 unless the Administrator permit members to retain them pending the reorganization of the local branch, or unless the members, join some other branch within three months.

5. The majority of the members of a local branch present at any special meeting convened for the purpose, may make rules for the election of members, and the management generally of the affairs of the branch. Such rules must provide for the appointment of a President and a Secretary, and must be submitted by the Secretary for the approval of the Administrator.

6. No such rules or bye-laws shall conflict with these Regulations.

7. Such rules of local branches must prescribe in what month the annual general meeting shall take place.

8. A President and a Secretary, who must be registered members, must be elected annually at the general meeting by a majority of the registered members present, and the office of Secretary must always be filled up: Provided that in case from any cause there be no election, the Secretary shall remain in office for the ensuing year.

9. The property of each branch is vested in the Secretary, and he is the representative officer of the branch in all matters of correspondence with the Administration. The Secretary is empowered to maintain order and discipline amongst members of the branch whenever assembled, and may impose fines as set forth in Schedule (A). All fines or penalties imposed, if not paid within fourteen days, may be recovered in the name of the Secretary in the Court of a Magistrate, and the amount thereof shall be paid into the funds of the branch. In the absence of the Secretary the powers held by him may be exercised by a deputy appointed by the branch. Any penalties for breaches of clauses 21, 23, 28, may be sued for at the instance of the Secretary in the Court of a Magistrate, and all such fines shall be paid into the funds of the branch.

10. Any member refusing to pay a fine as imposed by the Secretary and confirmed by the President of the branch shall cease to be a member of the Association.

11. The officers of a local branch will have power to make such bye-laws, with the approval of the Administrator, as from time to time may be necessary, for the proper care of arms, targets, expenditure of ammunition, &c.

12. It shall be lawful for the Secretary to take possession of, or cause to be taken possession of, any rifle issued by the British South Africa Company which he may find or ascertain is in the possession of any person other than the member to whom it was issued, or to whom it has been transferred, as provided in these Regulations.

13. Every member of the Association shall pay an annual subscription of 10*s.* to the Secretary of the local branch, and the branch shall, from its funds, provide targets and all the necessary working expenses of the branch and of its annual and other regular meetings for competition and practice.

14. Any member may resign his membership by giving to the Secretary of the branch one month's notice in writing, and by paying all moneys due by him under these Regulations or under the rules and bye-laws of the branch.

15. In the event of a member being transferred from one station to another, he will be permitted to become a member of the branch nearest to his new station without re-election or further subscription for the year, provided he obtains a certificate from the Secretary of the branch he is leaving, stating that his subscription has been paid.

16. (*a.*)—Each branch must hold one annual meeting for rifle competition for prizes.

(*b.*)—Each branch must hold at least one meeting in each month for rifle practice, at which his rifle should be inspected by the Secretary; and must hold one meeting for practice in every week, weather permitting, provided that notice of an intention to shoot be given by a member twenty-four hours previously.

17. Each registered member who shall, either at the annual meeting or at any other regular meeting, score 45 out of a possible 105, at ranges 200, 500, and 600 yards, at fixed targets of regulation size, Bisley positions, shall be registered as efficient.

18. An annual capitation grant will be made by the Administration to every branch at the rate of 10*s.* per annum for each registered efficient member thereof, and will be due on the 31st of December in each year. This grant will go to the funds of the branch and not to the individual members. Any member failing to become efficient shall himself make good to the branch the amount of the capitation grant so lost (unless he be prevented by sickness or absence).

19. The Secretary will draw the capitation grant on account of each registered efficient member on a certified pay list.

20. Each branch shall make rules for the drawing and expenditure of ammunition, and for recording the same, and also for superintending the shooting at the meetings for practice and competition, and recording the same, and no meeting for practice shall be held except in the presence of an officer of the branch.

21. Every registered member of a branch will be entitled to draw 100 rounds of ammunition, free of charge, which must be expended on the range, and every registered member will be entitled to purchase an additional 400 rounds of ammunition per annum at the cost price. This ammunition must be drawn as required from the officer appointed, who will duly record the amount drawn and the name of the member drawing the same.

22. No cartridges other than those loaded with cordite and of the regulation pattern may be used in rifles supplied by the Administration.

23. Every member is responsible to the Secretary that he has constantly in his possession not less than fifty rounds of ball ammunition, and he shall produce the same whenever called upon to do so by the Secretary.

24. Every registered member shall be provided with a rifle, the property of the Administration, on depositing its value with the Secretary of his branch. On payment by the Secretary to the Civil Commissioner or other official appointed by the Administration, and on production of a certificate that it is required for a duly registered member (whose name must be stated), the rifle will be issued to the Secretary.

25. Rifles remain Administration property, No rifle issued by the Administration for the use of a member of a branch shall be parted with by such member, except—

(*a.*) To a member of a branch.
(*b.*) To the Administration.

26. Any member desiring to part with his rifle as provided in the preceding clause must do so through the Secretary, who, in the case of a proposal to hand the rifle back to the Administration, will hold it to the order of the Commandant of Police, who will place a fair value on it, allowance being made for fair wear and tear, and forward the amount to the Secretary.

27. A member in possession of an Administration rifle wishing to resign must hand back his rifle to the Secretary, who will dispose of it as provided under clause 25.

28. A rifle issued by the Administration to a member of a branch shall never be removed from North-Eastern Rhodesia. Any person contravening this Regulation shall be liable to a penalty of 5*l*.

29. Every member obtaining a rifle from the Administration shall before receiving the same, be required to sign the covenant set forth in Schedule (B), in the presence of the Commandant of Police, a Magistrate, or the Secretary.

30. In any case where a member shall import a military rifle of the pattern used by the Administration, and such rifle is to be used for the purposes of the Rifle Association, he will be entitled to a rebate of customs duty on such rifle.

31. The Secretary will be required to furnish the Administration with a nominal roll annually, showing the registered members of his branch, the consecutive numbers of the Administration rifles, if any, in the possession of each. This roll is to be furnished in duplicate not later than the 15th December in each year, through the President of the branch.

32. At the annual rifle meeting of a branch, the arms, &c., of the members may be inspected by an officer appointed by the Administration for the purpose, or by the Commandant of Police.

33. The arms issued by the Administration to members of the Rifle Association, will be repaired at cost price, provided the damage is not occasioned by neglect or carelessness.

SCHEDULE (A).

FINES which may be inflicted by the Secretary of a Branch of the North-Eastern Rhodesia Rifle Association:—

(*a.*) For loading any fire-arm contrary to orders, or firing out of turn	0	2	6
(*b.*) For discharging any fire-arm accidentally	0	2	6
(*c.*) For appearing at any meeting with a dirty fire-arm	0	2	6
(*d.*) For pointing a loaded or unloaded fire-arm at any person ...	1	0	0
(*e.*) For neglecting to keep fifty rounds of ammunition at his residence, as provided under paragraph 21	0	5	0

SCHEDULE (B).

Covenant to be signed by a Member receiving a Rifle the property of the Administration.

Branch of the North-Eastern Rhodesia Rifle Association,

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I, , a member of the above Association, do hereby acknowledge to have received from the Administration a rifle No. , and I hereby bind myself to the Administration under the penalty of 20*l.*, to be recovered in the Court of any Magistrate, not to part with or sell the said rifle to any person except in accordance with the Rules of the above Association, and at no time to take or allow the removal of the same beyond the orders of North-Eastern Rhodesia except in transit from one station to another in North-Eastern Rhodesia. And I do hereby agree to be bound by the Rules of the said Association and of the Branch to which I belong.

Signed by the above-named on the of 190 ,
in my presence

British South Africa Company. Feb. 1903. TS Selected Foreign Office Files on Africa. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Nineteenth Century Collections Online. Web. 29 Apr. 2016.

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